1 April '45

7th US Army
6th Information and Historical Service
APO 758

Lt Col William B. Goddard
Major Joseph D. Duncan
Major Charles S. Davis
Capt. Warren E. Waters
Capt. James D.T. Hamilton
Capt. Keith K. Eggers
Capt. John D. Walp
1st Lt Edgar B. Mooney
1st Lt Arthur Gottlieb
1st Lt Lenthiel H. Downs
1st Lt Edward E. Jordan
1st Lt Robert H. Weinstein
2nd Lt William H. Ferguson
2nd Lt Melvin J. Lasky
2nd Lt William A. Sutton
Capt John D. Walp

M/Sgt Carroll S. Abbott
T/Sgt William H. Bancroft
T/Sgt Edwin H. Carpenter
S/Sgt Howard S. Dyer
S/Sgt Saul Israel
T/4 Edwin F. Carter
T/4 Richard W. Hudson
T/4 Louis Klein
T/4 Thomas B. Mc Cabe
T/4 Edward J. Valenski
T/5 Donald E. Maske
T/5 William E. Rowley
Pfc Robert L. Davis
Pfc Harvey M. Geller
Pfc Henry S. Stiegler

attached on temporary duty :

2nd Lt Martin Blumenson

Seventh Army Field Team Activities

during January 1945

During the latter part of December members of the field teams put emphasis on operations against the Maginot Line and the Siegfried Line. Three excellent reports were obtained.

Then, on New Year's Eve the German's attack was launched through the Vosges Mountains against the Seventh Army front from Saarguemines to the vicinity of Niederbronn les Bain, some thirty (30) miles to the southeast. This German drive was followed by a series of attacks north of the Haguenau Forest and a crossing of the Rhine in force in the area north of Gambsheim.

Date?

Then the Seventh Army front was withdrawn on the east to a line generally northwest - southeast through Haguenau. The Germans continued their aggressive action. This time in an effort to drive Seventh Army troops entirely out of Haguenau.

Name actions

Needless to say several important actions took place during this period. As the field men finished the work in which they were engaged, they were sent out to the units which had been involved in critical actions.

Mooney covered the 71st Infantry of the 44th Infantry Division which was in the Saarguemines area and east thereof where the Germans made one part of the drive. This report covered the period from 31 December to 4 January.

Capt Walp covered the action in a more general manner for this period for the other two regiments of the 44th Infantry Division, the 114th Infantry and the 324th Infantry.

Capt Waters went to the 117th Recon Squad to obtain the details of their part in this New Year's Eve Greeting from Hitler. This unit was southwest of Bitche when the crash came. The report covers from 31 December to 3 January.

The Huddelston Task Force was on the right, east, flank of the 117th Recon Squad at this time. Lt Mooney has covered the part played by this force during this particular period. However, the report is not completed as yet.

In between the 44th Infantry Division and the 117th Recon Squad, the 100th Infantry Division was holding its ~~original~~ assigned portion of the Seventh Army front.

It appears that the Germans were endeavoring to punch off the 100th Infantry Division by the two drives, one against the 44th Infantry Division and the other against the 117th Recon Squad and the Huddelston Task Force.

In order to round out the picture, Lt Ferguson was sent to the 100th Infantry Division to get details as to just how the units of this Division were effected by the enemy drives on its flanks and what were the reactions. He has had some difficulty in satisfying me with his reports. He has returned a second time with a list of questions to clarify points.

The 14th Armored, the parent organi-ation of the Huddelston Task Force, launched a drive on January 9 against the Germans in the vicinity of Hatten. This operation was covered by Lt Mooney. It covers a period from 9 January to the 20th. It has been completed.

The German crossing of the Rhone in the Gambsheim area hit the Linden Task Force, composed of units of the 42nd Infantry Division) In this connection the 315th Infantry and 314th Infantry of the 79th Infantry Division became involved in some very critical action. These units involved were covered by Capt Waters and Capt Eggers. Both reports are in the final state of completion.)

Lt Gottlieb, Sgt Bancroft and Pvt Rowley were sent to the rest area to which the Linden Task Force moved after this encounter with the Germans, to cover the operation. The period is from the 6th January to the 27th January. Gottliebs part is completed. Rowley's part is almost complet. Bancroft's part, a much larger part of the operation, is not complete.

The 12th Armored Division made history in the Herrlisheim-Gambsheim area during the period of 17-18 January. Lt Gottlieb is working on the details of this action at the present time. I have done some work, too, all of which is completed.

As this phase of German agression was drawing to a close, the Colmar Pocket issue came to a head. The story of the part that the 3rd Infantry Division played in the destruction of the Colmar Pocket is being covered by Lt Mooney, Lt Laskey and Lt Sutton. The 254th Infantry of the 63rd Division, also, took an important part in this action. Capt Waters is working on this part of the operation.

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Name of Historian	Units	Period of Action	Name of Action	Statement of Completion	Date to be forwarded to Theater Historian
1st Lieutenant Arthur Gottlieb	1st Bn. 411th Regt. 103rd Div.	17 - 21 December	Attacks on the Siegfried Defenses	ready for final editing.	submitted personally to Col. Ganoe on 1 March
	2nd Bn. 411th Regt. 103rd Div.	13 - 14 December	Climbach - Task Force Blackshire	ready for final editing	submitted to Paris on 21 January
	2nd Bn. 242 Regt. 42nd Div.	4 - 6 January	Weyersheim to Gambsheim	ready for final editing	submitted personally to Col. Ganoe on 1 March
	15th Regt. 3rd Div.		Crossing of the Meurthe to the Rhine	in note form	
	7th Regt. 3rd Div.		Assault towards St. Die	in note form	
1st Lieutenant Edgar Mooney	1st and 2nd Bns. 324th Regt. 44th Div.	16 - 17 November	Avricourt	ready for final editing	submitted to Paris 21 January
	"G" Co. 114th Regt. 44th Div.	23 November	Schalbach Tank Attack	ready for final editing	submitted to Paris 25 December
	1st Bn. 114th Regt. 44th Div.	6 - 10 December	Enchenberg	Published	submitted to Paris 25 December
	"E" Co. 71st Regt. "A" Co. 63rd Engrs. 44th Div.	14 - 16 December	Simserhof	ready for final editing	submitted to Paris 21 January
	71st Regt. 44th Div.	31 Dec. - 3 Jan.	New Year's Eve Action	additional notes required	March 15
	71st Regt. 44th Div.		Counter Attack at Rauwiller	in note form	
	71st Regt. 44th Div.		Bridge at Xouaxange	in note form	
	324th Regt. 44th Division		Wiesslingen	in note form	
	"F" Co. 114th Regt. 44th Division		Schalbach Tank Attack	in note form	

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Name of Historian	Units	Period of Action	Name of Action	Statement of Completion	Date to be forwarded to Theater Historian
1st Lieutenant Edgar Mooney	14th Armored Div.	16 Jan	Hatten	ready for final editing	Submitted personally to Col. Ganoe on 1 March
Captain Keith Eggers	2nd Bn. 315th Regt. 79th Div.	26 November	Oglungen Action	ready for final editing	submitted to Paris 25 December
	3rd Bn. 411th Regt. 103rd Div.	17 - 21 December	Bobenthal to the Siegfried	ready for final editing	Submitted personally to Col. Ganoe on 1 March
	315th Regt. 79th Div.		Holloville Action	ready for editing	submitted to Paris 25 Dec.
2nd Lieutenant William Ferguson	1st Bn. 142nd Regt. 36th Div.	23 - 25 September	Remirecourt to Tendon	ready for final editing	submitted to Paris 21 January
	1st Bn. 142nd Regt. 36th Div.	12 - 13 December	Counter Attack at Selestat	ready for final editing	submitted to Paris 21 January
	1st Bn. 142nd Regt. 36th Div.	22 Nov. - 11 Dec.	Poulieres to Valle de Ville	maps incomplete	March 15
Captain George Carter	133rd F.A. Bn. 36th Div.	12 December	Ste. Marie Action	ready for final editing	submitted to Paris 21 January
	2nd Bn. 141st Regt. 36th Div.	19 December	Kayserberg Action	ready for final editing	submitted to Paris 21 January
S/Sgt. William Bancroft	2nd Bn. 7th Regt. 3rd Division	26-21 November	Crossing of the Meurthe to the Rhine	Published	submitted to Paris 25 December
	3rd Bn. 180th Regt. 45th Division	16 - 20 December	Penetration of the Siegfried Line	ready for final editing	submitted personally to Col. Ganoe on 1 March

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Name of Historian	Units	Period of Action	Name of Action	Statement of Completion	Date to be Forwarded to Theater Historian
S/Sgt William Bancroft	15th Regt 3rd Division		Road Block at Mutzig	in note form	
1st Lt. Downs	314th Regt. 79th Div.		Monigny, Barbas, Hattigny	in note form	
	314th Regt. 79th Div.		Kaltenhouse	in note form	
	315th Regt. 79th Div.		Eberbach to Niederlauterbach	in note form	
Captain Waters	117th Recon. sqdn. 100th Dividion	1 - 3 January	Hudelson Task Force	ready for final editing	submitted personally to Col. Ganoe on 1 March
Division Reports	2 French Armored Division (Maj. Kilpatrick)	17 - 23 November	Attack on Strasburg	ready for final editing	submitted personally to Col. Ganoe on 1 March
	3 and 36th Division	Sept - Nov.		ready for final editing	submitted to Paris Feb 10
	540th Engr. Report (obtained from Regt'l CO)	31 Dec. - 2 Jan.		ready for final editing	
	63rd Division Report (3rd 253rd Inf) (Prepared by unit)	31st December- 3 Jan.		partially complete	March 15
Pfc William Rowley	222nd Regt. 42nd Div.	21 - 26 January	Battle of Ohlungen Forest	ready for final editing	

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
HISTORICAL SECTION
APO 758 US ARMY

28 February 1945.

GODDARD,

I SUGGEST:

(1) Finish up all small unit and key actions now in process. Go over them only for filling all gaps of fact and completing graphic representation. Just see that we won't have to ask any questions for you to answer. Don't spend time on writing or dolling up. Send on to us.

(2) Keep a field team of not more than three for extraordinary and obligated actions. May be used for other purposes when not on such duty.

(3) Detailed study of work and production of unit historians of corps and divisions with view to supplementing their work and getting maximum coverage for units. Directive will soon be out placing them under our supervision and responsibility.

(4) Bring up Graphic Order of Battle for Seventh Army to date, going down to divisions and independent commands. Keep in touch with G-3 and even secondary sources such as Stars and Stripes and Lists of Events. Constantly check on inaccuracy of lines and overlooking of facts. Try for reclassification of Order of Battle to farthest date to see if map cannot be posted, and kept up in Major Davis' office.

(5) Have somebody work on G-1 phases of Order of Battle such as dates of incumbency of all commanders and Chiefs of Staff down through division, marking all changes and giving a brief snyopsis of outstanding events of units with dates. Give CPs where not on map.

W.A. GANOE
Col. G.S.C.

Capt Walp take charge Graphic!

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HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
HISTORICAL SECTION
APO 758 US ARMY

28 February 1945

Memo : Secretary General Staff

Subject : Reorganization of History Section

1. As Colonel GANOE promised yesterday we have made an intensive study of the history situation in this Army after consideration of 1) the desires of the Commanding General, Seventh Army, 2) the recent directive from the Secretary of War making the Theater Historian responsible for the entire history of all operations in the Theater since the arrival of SPOBS, 3) and the lessening demands for coverage of small-unit actions.

2. The following officers will constitute a team which will work intensively and exclusively on the History of the Seventh Army down at least to division level and oftentimes as low as battalion and company level:

NAME	DATE OF BEGINNING WORK	DUTY
Major Davis	Immediately	Supervisor - Researcher and writer
Capt. Hamilton	Immediately	Researcher - writer
Capt. Waters	March 14th	Researcher - writer
Lt. Lasky	March 10th	Researcher - writer
Lt. Sutton	March 14th	Researcher - writer
Lt. Downs	April 1st	Editor - Rewrite

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3. The immediate objective will be two-fold;

1) The full completion with dispatch of Phase I of the History (through August 16th).

2) The immediate completion of coverage of units of the Army from December 16th, 1944 to January 17th 1945 in order to gain facts which would otherwise be lost.

4. The main objective will be to produce Phases I, II, III, etc as soon as possible.

5. The amount of personnel on the team is by test of experience about the maximum before we get diminishing returns.

6. You of course realize that a separate pamphlet "Invasion of Southern France" (August 15-25) showing the movement and high-lights of the Army for the War Department American Forces in Action Series will be completed by April 1.

WILLIAM B. GODDARD
Lt. Col. Infantry